26 November 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: DO/IRO

25X1 FROM:

Chief, Classification Review Division

SUBJECT:

Adolph Berle Papers on the Free Europe Committee

at the Franklin Delanc Roosevelt Presidential Library (U)

1. NARS has advised us that the Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR)
Presidential Library is the custodian for the personal papers of the late
Adolph Berle, who was one of Roosevelt's brain trust. Recently, Berle's
widow sent the FDR library six feet of Berle's personal papers which concern
FEC and Radio Free Europe, some of which are marked classified. An individual
by the name of Schwartz is writing a biography of Berle and is trying to gain
access to these papers. (U)

- 2. In anticipation of a need to furnish these papers to the biographer, the FDR library personnel sent a sampling to NARS asking to have them cleared or do whatever is necessary for their release. Alan Thompson, Chief of the Declassification Division at NARS forwarded them to CIA since we are the responsible agency for FEC records. Thompson sees this matter as falling somewhere between a systematic review request and an eventual mandatory request. Although FDR died before the FEC was created, Berle lived much longer, became involved in the organization of FEC and its various activities and willed his personal papers to FDR library. Office of Personnel files indicate that Berle never held an official position with CIA, but he was a witting principal in several Agency-sponsored covert action projects in the 1950s and early 1960s, including the National Committee for a Free Europe and activities sponsored by that committee such as Radio Free Europe. It is estimated that about ten percent of the six feet of material is sensitive since it involves the Committee and RFE. (U)
- 3. To judge from this sample, the Berle collection contains little in the way of U.S. government classified material although many of the Committee and RFE documents are marked "CONFIDENTIAL." or "STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL." The documents are almost entirely internal Committee/RFE letters and memoranda, although one document does appear to have originated with the CA Staff. NARS is concerned, as we are, that the documents may contain information that remains sensitive in spite of the fact that the U.S. government has admitted

NLC NLC review(s) completed. review(s) completed.

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that RFE was a creature of CIA. The fact that CIA funded RFE and that the U.S. government, through CIA, provided basic policy and control is amply documented in congressional hearings and in books cleared by CDA. We therefore reviewed the material looking to protect individuals associated with CIA who have not been compromised, specific funding mechanisms used by the CIA, and details of the methods of control and manipulation that were used. (C)

- 4. On the basis of our review, we have divided the documents into four categories, as follows:
 - (A) Innocuous documents that deal strictly with the internal workings of FEC as a normal, overt organization, with no allusions to a CIA connection. We see no problem in the release of these documents.
 - (B) Documents which allude to the CIA interest in the Free Europe Committee by references to a "sponsor" or "friends", which obviously mean CIA in the light of the subsequent official acknowledgement of CIA involvement. We see no problem in the release of these documents since this corraborates information already in the public domain.
 - (C) The remaining nine documents raise some questions, as follows:
 - 1. Document 8 refers to consideration of starting an RFE-type project in the future targetted against We see no problem in the release of this document, but the DO desk concerned should be consulted.

2. Documents 10 and 11 concern the European Advisory Council. Again, we see no problem, but the European Division may have comments regarding some of the individuals mentioned.

Jegarding Selies of the Training mentioned.
3. as an RFE source. We see no problem in releasing this document.
5. hat a certain identifiable individual was a CIA employee. We recommend withholding this document.
6.
. We see no problem in release from a
national security standpoint (Note: Presidential Librares are not subject to Privacy Act requests.)

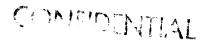
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	7. appears releasable, but since it may have originated with the CA Staff it should be checked out by the	25 X 1
	appropriate DO component.	
comme	5. Your coordination on this review is requested. We also request your ents on how this review should be handled. First, should we ask NARS to	
simpl accor	ly let this matter develop into a mandatory review request and handle it rdingly? Second, since we have seen only a sampling of the Berle papers	
in qu	destion would you agree that the full six feet should be reviewed by CIA?	
we as	sked NARS whether the entire six feet could be forwarded to Washington, after checking with the FDR library Alan Thompson of NARS informed us that	
it co	ould not. (U)	

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Document 41	Conf Crusade for Freedom to Berle. National Information Bureau questioning funding of RFE by Crusade. "Friends" won't intervened tan you identify any members of NIB board who can be made discreetly withing? is a guest	
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